

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested. Applicants thank the Examiner for total consideration given the present application. Claims 1, 12-14, and 16 were pending prior to the Office Action. No claims have been added through this reply. No claims have been canceled through this reply. Therefore, claims 1, 12-14, and 16 are pending. Claims 1 and 14 are independent. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejected claims in light of the remarks presented herein, and earnestly seeks a timely allowance of all pending claims.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1, 12-14, and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Japanese Publication No. 2001-130780 (the '780' publication) in view of Nakano (U.S. Patent 5,540,423). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Argument: Features of claims 1 and 14 not disclosed by cited prior art

Independent claims 1 and 14 have been amended to include additional limitations. For example, independent claim 1 as amended recites, *inter alia*, "the coil portion has a first arm portion which is arranged along the path so as to guide a reverse face of the sheet and extends to and is attached to a respective rotation shaft of one of the driven rollers and the coil portion has a second arm extending to and fixed to the frame, an end of the second arm extends away from the coil portion and the end of the second arm is fixed to the frame at a location along the path different from a location of the coil portion." *Emphasis added.*

In the '780' publication, elements 8 and 9, which correspond to the claimed sheet transporting guides of the claimed invention, face an upper surface of the sheet. Consequently, a guide for transporting the sheet is necessary in the case where a shaft member 11 is arranged distant from a paper feed roller 2.

In contrast, in the claimed invention, the first arm portion is arranged below the sheet. Accordingly, the claimed invention does not need the guide for transporting the sheet.

In sum, the '780' publication fails to disclose the claimed feature of "the coil portion has a first arm portion which is arranged along the path so as to guide a reverse face of the sheet" as recited in independent claim 1 and Nakano fails to make up for deficiencies as found in the '780' publication.

Therefore, claim 1 as amended is submitted to be allowable over the '780' publication and Nakano for at least the above reasons.

Independent claim 14 is allowable for similar reasons as set forth above in reference to independent claim 1.

Dependent claims 12-13 and 16 are allowable for the reasons set forth above with regards to claims 1 and 14 at least based on their dependency on claims 1 and 14.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1, 12-14, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 12-14, and 16 are respectfully requested for at least the above reasons.

Conclusion

Therefore, for at least these reasons, all claims are believed to be distinguishable over the combination of the '780' publication and Nakano, individually or in any combination. It has been shown above that the cited references, individually or in combination, may not be relied upon to show at least these features. Therefore, claims 1, 12-14, and 16 are distinguishable over the cited references.

In view of the above remarks and amendments, it is believed that the pending application is in condition for allowance.


Applicants respectfully request that the pending application be allowed.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Aslan Ettehadieh Reg. No. 62,278 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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